FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION
AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

BWC/CONS/1
29 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

Geneva, 25-27 August 1997

REPORT OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

1. As agreed at the Informal Meeting held on 31 July 1997 and subsequently confirmed in a Note issued by the Depositaries to all States Parties on 8 August 1997, the Formal Consultative Meeting of States Parties to the 1972 Biological and Toxin. Weapons Convention was convened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 25 to 27 August 1997, at the request of the Government of the Republic of Cuba. The States Parties held three meetings during that period under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Ian Soutar of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. At the 1st meeting, the States Parties elected six Vice Chairmen from the following countries: Brazil, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Netherlands, Nigeria and Russian Federation. Mr. Sola Ogunbanwo, Senior Coordinator of the Disarmament Training and Advisory Services Programme, Centre for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Meeting.

2. The following States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam. The following signatory States to the Convention also participated in the Meeting: Egypt, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic.

3. The meeting heard statements by the delegation of Cuba and the delegation of the United States, the texts of which were circulated to all States Parties participating in the meeting. Both delegations then made a further statement amplifying points raised in their formal statements.

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4. In subsequent discussion, States Parties welcomed the fact that the delegations of Cuba and United States had sought to clarify their positions with respect to the concerns raised by the Government of Cuba. States Parties noted that the consultation was fully in conformity with the conclusions of the final document of the Third Review Conference relevant to the application of Article V of the Convention. A number of States Parties, however, considered that in the time available the meeting had not fully been able to resolve all matters considered ambiguous or unresolved arising from the request of the Government of Cuba. A number of other States Parties considered that the obligation to consult and cooperate in relation to any problems which might arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention had been fulfilled by the holding of the formal consultative meeting.

5. It was therefore agreed that States Parties who wished to do so should provide to the Chairman by 27 September 1997 a submission containing their observations, including from national technical experts, on the information provided to the meeting by the Governments of Cuba and the United States. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen, together, would consult on the basis of the information supplied at the present meeting and in the light of these further observations in order as far as possible to clarify and resolve any outstanding issues related to the concerns raised by Cuba. The Chairman should report in writing on the outcome of these consultations to all States Parties by 31 December 1997. Notwithstanding the closure of the meeting on 27 August 1997, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen should continue to hold office until 31 December 1997 for the above purposes.
